

Claim 2 (original as filed): The method of preparing a consumable nutritional mineral supplement composition according to claim 1, wherein said step of providing uncontaminated plant material further includes providing plant material free of pesticides, herbicides, fire-retardants or other chemical or environmental contamination.

Claim 3 (original as filed): The method of preparing a consumable nutritional mineral supplement composition according to claim 1, wherein said step of reacting said ash form of said uncontaminated plant material with organic acids further includes reacting said ash form of said uncontaminated plant material with organic acids selected from the group consisting of lactic acid, citric acid, acetic acid, malic acid, gluconic acid, saccharic acid, orotic acid, and ascorbic acid.

Claim 4 (original as filed): The method of preparing a consumable nutritional mineral supplement composition according to claim 1, wherein said step of reacting said ash form of said uncontaminated plant material with organic acids further includes replacing said organic acid with an inorganic acid.

Claim 5 (original as filed): The method of preparing a consumable nutritional mineral supplement composition according to claim 1, wherein said step of reacting said ash form of said uncontaminated plant material with organic acids further includes mixing said organic acid with an inorganic acid.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method of preparing a consumable nutritional mineral supplement composition according to claim 1, wherein said step of isolating said reacted form of plant ash in solid form, solution form or suspension form further includes the steps of heating, dilution, filtration, concentration, crystallization, and evaporation.

Claim 7 (cancelled): The method of preparing a consumable nutritional mineral supplement composition according to claim 1, wherein said step of processing said isolated reacted form of plant ash further includes homogenization, pasteurization, sterilization, grinding and powdering.

Claim 8 (original as filed): A consumable nutritional mineral supplement composition prepared according to claim 1, comprising plant ash reacted with organic or inorganic acid, isolated, and processed into a solid powdered form.

Claim 9 (original as filed): The consumable nutritional mineral supplement composition prepared according to claim 8, wherein said solid powdered form is compressed into pill tablets for oral consumption by humans and animals.

Claim 10 (original as filed): The consumable nutritional mineral supplement composition prepared according to claim 8, wherein said solid powdered form is encapsulated into gelatin capsules tablets for oral consumption by humans and animals.

Claim 11 (original as filed): The consumable nutritional mineral supplement composition prepared according to claim 8, wherein said solid powdered form is added directly to animal feeds for oral consumption by animals.

Claim 12 (original as filed): The consumable nutritional mineral supplement composition prepared according to claim 8, wherein said solid powdered form is mixed with vitamins, nutraceuticals, and/or herbs for the purpose of formulating a multi-vitamin/multi-mineral supplement.

Claim 13 (original as filed): A consumable nutritional mineral supplement composition prepared according to claim 1, comprising plant ash reacted with organic or inorganic acid, isolated, and processed into a solution form.

Claim 14 (original as filed): The consumable nutritional mineral supplement composition prepared according to claim 13, wherein said solution form is mixed with natural or artificial sweeteners, fragrances, food colorings and/or preservatives.

Claim 15 (original as filed): The consumable nutritional mineral supplement composition prepared according to claim 13, wherein said solution form is fortified by addition of vitamin D₃.

Claim 16 (original as filed): A consumable nutritional mineral supplement composition prepared according to claim 1, comprising plant ash reacted with organic or inorganic acid, isolated, and processed into a suspension form.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The consumable nutritional mineral supplement composition according to claim 16, wherein said suspension form ~~further includes~~ is an aqueous suspension.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The consumable nutritional mineral supplement composition according to claim 16, wherein said suspension form ~~further includes~~ is a colloidal suspension.

Claim 19 (original as filed): The consumable nutritional mineral supplement composition according to claim 17, wherein said aqueous suspension form is further treated with carbon dioxide, and processed into tablet form, such that when said carbon dioxide processed tablet form is added to a liquid beverage, produces carbon dioxide gas causing the solution to effervesce, resulting in a carbonated mineral supplement in the form of a refreshing drink.

Claim 20 (original as filed): The consumable nutritional mineral supplement composition according to claim 19, wherein said carbon dioxide processed tablet form is added to fruit or vegetable juice.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

A. In the Specification

1. No paragraphs have been amended in the specification to clarify previously disclosed matter and/or correct language, reference labeling, figure description, and/or syntax. No new matter has been added.

B. In the Claims

1. Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 6, 17, and 18 have been amended to correct language, syntax, avoid the citation of the prior art, and/or point out the specific features of Applicant's invention with greater clarity. Claim 7 has been cancelled. No new claims have been added. No new matter has been added.

Regarding the Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112

2. Applicant acknowledges the quotation of the appropriate paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112 that forms the basis for the rejections under this section made in the office action.